

### **REMARKS**

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of July 15, 2004 is respectfully requested.

It is initially noted that an Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this response. Consideration of the information contained therein is requested.

The abstract has been amended to comply with the objections raised in section 1 on page 2 of the Office Action.

Further, the application as a whole has been reviewed, and a number of minor editorial corrections have been made thereto for the sake of form.

A substitute replacement drawing sheet accompanies this response to effect the previously proposed drawing corrections. The Examiner is thanked for the approval of the changes.

The Examiner rejected a number of the claims submitted with the Second Preliminary Amendment over various prior art references. However, the Examiner also went on to indicate that claims 139-141 and 164-166 were allowed, and that claims 92, 97, 103, 110, 119-126 and 159 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter. It is noted that claim 110 is in fact an independent claim, and is thus taken as being allowed. Each of claims 92, 97, 103 and 119 has now been redrafted into independent form in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. All of the claims rejected by the Examiner have been canceled. Accordingly, only allowed or allowable claims remain in the present application. Indication of such is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Kazutomo HIGA

By: 

Nils E. Pedersen  
Registration No. 33,145  
Attorney for Applicant

NEP/krq  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
October 15, 2004